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Africa before Europe Reading interpretation

Global Studies Honors Pd. 9/10

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1. Africa is a large continent with varying climates in many different regions. The season can range from rainy, wet, humid months of thunderstorms, to hot, arid, dry summer in areas such deserts, and rainforests.
2. Among its many mountains is Mt. Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, reaching at a peak 19,340 feet high. Africa has also be known as the *cradle of mankind* for many archaeologists believe that certain place such Oluduvai Gorge in Tanzania were the first homes of humans.
3. Covering much of middle Africa are rainforests. These rainforests can be home to many pests like Mosquitoes that carry Malaria, yet also contain exotic species of plants and animals in its humid environment.
4. Many rivers in Africa are frequently broken by either falls or rapids, not ideal routes for transportation. Also, Africa has only a few good harbors most of them in on the coasts of East Africa. Because the only area that has good coastal trade, Muslim traders interacted with the African people, eventually leading to formation of the language called Swahili which is a combination Bantu Grammar and Arabian vocabulary.
5. One ancient African civilization is Cush, a society of people who lived upstream from the ancient Egyptians. For some time, the Cush conquered and ruled the Egyptians. They even formed their own hieroglyphics, which has yet to be translated.
6. Many impressive cultures had a home in West Africa’s Sudan. One example was the Kingdom of Ghana, which lied upon a very rich trade route. Traders brought salt from the north to the southern forest people, whom in turn gave them gold. West Africa contained massive amount of gold.
7. When Ghana fell, the Mali kingdom rose to power. One Mali ruler, Mansa Musa went to Cairo one time, and spent so much gold, that its value there fell.
8. Nearer to the West African coast, there were major forest cities like Benin and Ife for example. In fact, in 1602, a Dutch visitor and compared them favorably to Dutch cities.
9. Zimbabwe is a collection of ruins south of the Zambezi River in South Africa. At one time, many people lived there, but when the Europeans got there, it was all deserted.
10. In summation, Africa had a rich and complex, whose artistic and intellectual achievements matched to those of Europe at the time.